

# G20 Strategic Roundtable: Sustaining Africa's G20 Agenda Across Global Processes

**Date:** 26 March 2026

**Time:** 9am – 12:30pm (GMT+3) | 8am – 1:30pm (SAST)

**Location:** Hilton, Addis Ababa – Hybrid

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## Background/Introduction

2025 marked a defining moment for Africa's engagement in global economic governance. South Africa's G20 Presidency (alongside Africa's participation in COP30, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and ongoing negotiations toward a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation) collectively repositioned Africa as a more assertive actor in shaping global debates on development finance, debt sustainability, climate action and international tax reform.

Against a backdrop of geopolitical fragmentation, South Africa advanced a development-oriented agenda under the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability" prioritising debt sustainability, climate finance, disaster resilience, and critical minerals. Key initiatives, including the Africa Expert Panel and the Africa Engagement Framework, reflect efforts to embed Africa's priorities within the G20 architecture.

Considering the G20's transition into a Global North presidency cycle, the challenge is no longer agenda-setting, but continuity. Without deliberate efforts to institutionalise gains and coordinate across parallel processes, there is a risk that progress achieved under South Africa's leadership may fragment or stall.

This dialogue aims to identify practical pathways to sustain, institutionalise, and coordinate Africa's development priorities across the G20, FfD4 follow-up, COP processes, and UN tax negotiations. The guiding question throughout the discussion will therefore be: what must be institutionalised to prevent Africa's development agenda from resetting with each G20 presidency cycle?

## Programme (times in GMT+3)

09:00 – 09:30	<b>Registration and Tea</b>	
09:30 – 09:40	<b>Welcoming remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA</li> <li>• Prof Bartholomew Kingsly Armah, AUDA-NEPAD</li> </ul>
09:40 – 09:45	<b>Opening remarks from the Office of the Dean of Diplomatic Corps</b>	Mr Salim M'mdi Soilihi, Embassy of the Union of Comoros
09:45 – 09:55	<b>Setting the scene</b>  Reflections on key outcomes of South Africa's G20 Presidency and on the US's G20 Priorities	Ms Kesaobaka Nancy Mopipi, SAIIA
09:55 – 10:05	<b>Reflections on the outcomes of South Africa's G20 just energy transition and sustainable finance agenda</b>  This session examines how momentum on the just energy transition and sustainable finance agenda can be sustained amid shifting global priorities, with a focus on embedding climate considerations within broader development and financing frameworks.	Mr Alex Benkenstein, SAIIA
10:05 – 10:20	<b>Open Discussion/Q&amp;A</b>	
10:20 – 10:40	<b>Africa Engagement Framework</b>  The session will focus on the content and structure of the engagement framework, emphasising on the thematic areas as well as avenues for contribution and collaboration among stakeholders in pushing it forward. It will further discuss the establishment of the new AU G20 continental steering mechanism and its role in this regard.	Mr Sijh Diagne, AfDB  <b>Respondent:</b> Prof Bartholomew Kingsly Armah, AUDA-NEPAD
10:40 – 10:55	<b>Open Discussion/Q&amp;A</b>	
10:55 – 11:30	<b>Tea Break</b>	
11:30 – 11:40	<b>Ubuntu Commission on Global Public Goods – South Africa's G20 Presidency legacy project under the Development Working Group</b>	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA

	<p>As a central legacy project of South Africa’s G20 presidency, the Ubuntu Commission will encourage research and informed dialogue on global public challenges and on global public investments. The presentation will focus on the purpose and structure of the Commission as well as sensitise participants on how to engage with it, to the extent possible.</p>	
11:40 – 11:50	<p><b>Presentation on the illicit financial flows agenda under the Development Working Group</b></p> <p>The session will provide an overview and update beyond the Call to Action which was adopted during South Africa’s G20 presidency.</p>	Ms Kathy Nicolaou-Manias, IEP and UNECA
11:50 – 12:00	<p><b>Presentation of the Inequality Report</b></p> <p>This presentation will discuss the recommendations of the report and reflect on the work of the panel in sustaining momentum, including on establishing a Global Panel on Inequality.</p>	Prof Jayati Ghosh, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
12:00 – 12:15	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
12:15 – 12:30	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA